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COMPLETE

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Page 2: B. Contact Information

Q1 1. County Name Imperial

Q2 2. Select the department you are representing. Both departments

Q3 3. Contact Information (Child Welfare)

Name of Contact Person Paula Santillan Llanas
Department Name Imperial County Department of Social Services
Email Address paulallanas@co.imperial.ca.us
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Q4 4. Contact Information (Probation)

Name of Contact Person Fernando Jimenez
Department Name Imperial County Probation
Email Address FernandoJimenez@co.imperial.ca.us
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Page 3: C-1. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q5 1. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Child Welfare):	Percent Increase (%)	11
	Number Increase (#)	32

Q6 2. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Probation):	Percent Increase (%)	50
	Number Increase (#)	23

Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention and Support (FPRS) FY 2017-18 Outcomes and FY 2018-19 Allocation Plan Report

Q7 3. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Child Welfare):	Percent Increase (%)	20
	Number Increase (#)	17

Q8 4. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Probation):	Percent Increase (%)	50
	Number Increase (#)	23

Page 4: C-2. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q9 1. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Child Welfare):	Percent Increase (%)	44
	Number Increase (#)	20

Q10 2. Recruitment goal for non-related caregivers (Probation):	Percent Increase (%)	100
	Number Increase (#)	1

Q11 3. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Child Welfare):	Percent Increase (%)	80
	Number Increase (#)	49

Q12 4. Recruitment goal for relative/NREFM caregivers (Probation):	Percent Increase (%)	200
	Number Increase (#)	2

Page 5: C-3. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q13 1. How many children in {{ Q1 }} County were in congregate care on June 30, 2018 (include children placed out-of-county)?	Child Welfare	32
	Probation	26

Q14 2. What was the goal for reducing congregate care placements during this time (Child Welfare)?	Percent Decrease (%)	100
	Number Decrease (#)	32

Q15 3. What was the goal for reducing congregate care placements during this time (Probation)?	Percent Decrease (%)	100
	Number Decrease (#)	26

Page 6: C-4. Overall Recruitment Goals and Congregate Care Reduction Goals

Q16 1. How many children in {{ Q1 }} County do you estimate will remain in congregate care on June 30, 2019?	Child Welfare	6
	Probation	12

Page 7: D-1.1 Family Finding

Q17 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Family Finding, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Family Finding in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

Imperial County's goal of Family Finding is to identify relatives or significant individuals in a child's life in order to support reunification or a long term placement in the least restrictive setting as possible. Family finding efforts assist in establishing long term connections for our Foster Youth (FY).

Page 8: D-1.2 Family Finding

<p>Q18 1. Which specific services and supports did Family Finding activities provide? Select ALL that apply.</p>	<p>Family Finding Support & Staff ,</p> <p>Initial Placement Support,</p> <p>Placement Support Staff,</p> <p>Step Down Shelters</p>
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Q19 2. Please describe in detail how Family Finding activities were implemented.

Imperial County utilized a Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) to assist with Family Finding Efforts (FFE). The RFAS assisted at the onset of a child being taken into protective custody in identifying relatives with whom the child could be placed with. In addition, assigned social workers are trained in conducting active FFE throughout the life of the case. The active efforts have been critical when there are placement disruptions, foster life long connections and natural support systems. In addition, FFE assist in transitioning youth to lower levels of care.

<p>Q20 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.</p>	<p>YES (please describe):</p> <p>This activity was initially implemented by reallocating a case carrying Child Welfare Social Worker to focus on Family Finding and placement matching. This worker continues to be designated as the Resource Family Approval Specialist and will continue with Family Finding efforts.</p>
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Page 9: D-1.2 Family Finding

<p>Q21 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?</p>	<p>YES</p>
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Page 10: D-1.2 Family Finding

Q22 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Imperial County has met it's goal of placing children with relatives, nonrelated extended family members (NREFMs), or in the least restrictive placement as possible.

During FY 2017-2018 our Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs.

This activity has also assisted with reducing the length of stay at Imperial County's Emergency Shelter (Betty Jo McNeece Receiving Home). The average length of stay for children at the BJMRH is 11.3 days.

Q23 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Family Finding activities.

The advice and or best practice recommended are referenced in response to question eight (8).

Q24 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Imperial County was unable to meet certain Family Finding goals due to not implementing the Home Based Care Placement Unit as this activity was not implemented due to Imperial County not staffing or reallocating staff to this activity.

Q25 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

The Home Based Care Placement unit was not fully implement; however, attainable goals were met through the Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS). RFAS work in collaboration with the intake and assessment staff to identify potential caregivers and continued the Family Finding Efforts. This activity consisted of services to caregivers that were not attainable due to the demands of each component.

Q26 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Family Finding activities, not already described above.

Although the RFAS primary focus is to actively search for relatives and placement matching with appropriate caregivers at the onset of the case or as needed Imperial County's Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) findings identified lack of Family Findings Efforts (FFE) through out the life of a case as a barrier. Best practice is for the assigned social worker to actively search for relatives throughout the life of the case and not solely when there is a placement disruption or a need for placement. Continued FFE allow for the fostering of relationships and supports for children who remain in foster care. Active FFE promote better outcomes to include permanency and stability.

Page 11: D-1.3 Family Finding

Q27 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

145

Q28 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

By conducting Family Finding Efforts (FFE), children were able to be placed in familiar home environments, to include the least restrictive environment and maintain their family connections.

In addition, by placing children with relatives and NREFMS, the family is provided with additional safety networks and support with reunification and long term placement if needed. Furthermore, the development of safety networks is critical to establishing natural supports and strengthening the family. These family connections further support successful Family Reunification efforts.

Q29 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

50

Q30 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

Family Finding Efforts conducted via the RFAS provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Having a dedicated RFAS assisted in reducing the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants. The enhanced communication motivated caregivers to continue to work with the Department on a long term basis and remained committed as a resources family.

Q31 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Family Finding goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Imperial County will continue to support Family Findings efforts for all children who are detained, adjudicated, or there is a disruption in placement. Family Findings will be utilized throughout the life of a case in order to continue to identify natural support systems for the family.

In addition, Imperial County County's current System Improvement Plan (SIP) includes a strategy that focuses on improved Family Findings Efforts (FFE) by Child Welfare staff throughout the life of a case. This includes developing FFE policy and procedures, training staff on the policy, and tracking FFE through reports and compare with Permanency and Placement Stability outcomes to measure success on an ongoing basis.

Page 12: D-1.4 Family Finding

Q32 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q33 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q34 3. Non-FPRRS

0

Page 13: D-1.5 Family Finding

Q35 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?	YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.): Imperial County will continue to encourage and monitor compliance with FFE. This includes the development and implementation of policies and procedures. In addition, Imperial County will track family finding efforts through reports and compare with Permanency and Placement Stability outcomes to measure success on an ongoing basis.
Q36 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Family Finding for FY 2018-19?	NO

Page 14: D-2.1 Outreach

Q37 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Outreach, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Outreach in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.	
Imperial County's Outreach goal was to increase specialized homes for sibling groups and children in need of specialized care (medical, behavioral, educational, and developmental).	

Page 15: D-2.2 Outreach

Q38 1. Which specific services and supports did Outreach activities provide? Select ALL that apply.	Caregiver Support, Caregiver , Training Family Finding Support & , Staff Initial Placement Support, Mental Health Services Coordination
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Q39 2. Please describe in detail how Outreach activities were implemented.

Specific services and supports that were completed to provide Outreach activities include: Caregiver Support, Caregiver Training, Family Finding Support and Staff, Initial Placement Support, and Mental Health Services Coordination. These services were provided through the assigned case carrying social workers, Resource Family Approval Specialist, and the existing Resource Family Approval Unit. Activities included providing individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. In addition, the RFA unit provided specialized training for caregivers. The trainings were provided in English and Spanish languages, trainings were tailored to the specific needs of the caregivers. This reduced the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants.

Although efforts were made to implement this activity the robust anticipated efforts were not implemented.

Q40 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.	<p>YES (please describe):</p> <p>The Resource Family Approval (RFA) unit is currently focusing on reducing their backlog of timely approvals of children placed under an emergency basis. However, the RFA unit will be focusing on recruitment of quality caregivers that will be able to meet the needs of children and youth with behaviors that make them difficult to place and at times are at high risk of entering congregate care. In addition, Imperial County's System Improvement Plan includes strategies that focus on new and innovative approach to recruitment of Resource Families and improved efforts to retain and support Resource Families in Imperial County.</p>
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Page 16: D-2.2 Outreach

Q41 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?	YES
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Page 17: D-2.2 Outreach

Q42 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Imperial County utilized internal resources to meet some of the services and supports designated to support this goal. The services and supports included Caregiver Support, Caregiver Training, Family Finding Support and Staff, Initial Placement Support, and Mental Health Services Coordination. The specified goals contained within the FPRRS plan were not fully achieved as anticipated.

Q43 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Outreach activities.

Not Applicable

Q44 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Imperial County was unable to fully meet it's Outreach goal due to not being able implement the following activities: Resource Family Liaison (Probation). The Recruitment and Retention Program was not fully implemented; however, attainable goals were met via the RFAS. The RFAS allowed us to expand our placement resources with quality caregivers.

Q45 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

Although efforts were made to meet this goal, the staff that was hired were specifically dedicated to the approval of RFA homes. There was a high demand to operate the RFA program to meet the demands of recruiting, educating and supporting existing resource families and prospective applicants.

Q46 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Outreach activities, not already described above.

Not applicable.

Page 18: D-2.3 Outreach

Q47 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

145

Q48 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

Imperial County's Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs. By conducting outreach with relatives the RFAS was able to expeditiously place children in familiar home environments, to include the least restrictive environment and maintain their family connections.

The Resource Family Approval (RFA) unit is currently focusing on reducing their backlog of timely approvals of children placed under an emergency basis. However, the RFA unit will be focusing on recruitment of quality caregivers that will be able to meet the needs of children and youth with behaviors that make them difficult to place and at times are at high risk of entering congregate care.

In addition, Imperial County's System Improvement Plan includes strategies that focus on new and innovative approach to recruitment of Resource Families and improved efforts to retain and support Resource Families in Imperial County.

Q49 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

50

Q50 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

The outreach activities and individualized support provided to caregivers assisted in eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Having a dedicated staff member to assist new prospective applicants assisted in reducing the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants. The enhanced communication motivated caregivers to continue to work with the Department on a long term basis and remained committed as a resources family.

Q51 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Outreach goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Imperial County will perform outreach activities that have been incorporated in the System Improvement Plan (SIP). The focus will be on new and innovative approach to recruitment of Resource Families and improved efforts to retain and support Resource Families in Imperial County.

Page 19: D-2.4 Outreach

Q52 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q53 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q54 3. Non-FPRRS

0

Page 20: D-2.5 Outreach

Q55 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?

YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.):
Imperial County will continue with recruitment efforts by focusing on the prospective RFA applicants that are pending and that have not been processed. Imperial County is evaluating whether the Family Evaluations of prospective applicants will be contracted out. The proposed new activity is to process the new applications that have originated from outreach and that have yet to be processed. Although outreach has proven to be beneficial, there is a need to processes existing applications that have remained pending.

Q56 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Outreach for FY 2018-19? **NO**

Page 21: D-3.1 Reducing Congregate Care

Q57 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Reducing Congregate Care, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Reducing Congregate Care in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

To reduce the number of children placed in congregate care by identifying families and expanding support systems so that all children are cared for within a family like setting.

Page 22: D-3.2 Reducing Congregate Care

Q58 1. Which specific services and supports did Reducing Congregate Care activities provide? Select ALL that apply.

- Caregiver Support,
- Caregiver Training ,
- Family Finding Support & Staff ,
- Initial Placement Support,
- Mental Health Services Coordination ,
- Placement Support Staff

Q59 2. Please describe in detail how Reducing Congregate Care activities were implemented.

Imperial County implemented activities that supported the reduction of Congregate Care. The activities contained within Imperial County's allocation plan that were the most successful in reducing congregate care were the Resource Family Approval Specialist and the Caregiver Direct Services and Support.

Imperial County's Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs. By conducting outreach with relatives the RFAS was able to expeditiously place children in familiar home environments, to include the least restrictive environment and maintain their family connections.

The RFAS provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Having a dedicated RFAS assisted in reducing the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants. The enhance communication motivated caregivers to continue to work with the Department on a long term basis and remained committed as a resources family.

In addition, by placing children with relatives and NREFMS, the family is provided with additional safety networks and support with reunification and long term placement if needed. Furthermore, the development of safety networks is critical to establishing natural supports and strengthening the family. These family connections further support successful Family Reunification efforts.

Caregiver Direct Services and Support provided services and support to caregivers in order to retain homes and maintain placements of children. This activity strengthened partnerships between the care providers and agency through placement readiness and continuing supports to remove barriers to caregivers assisting with exceptional needs, needed furnishings, extra-curricular activities, and respite. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together. The Agency will continue to explore the families' needs as it pertains to supporting the children as these needs are likely to change over time.

Imperial County has met it's goal of placing children with relatives, nonrelated extended family members (NREFMs), or in the least restrictive placement as possible.

Q60 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.	YES (please describe): The county will continue to sustain the current activities by maintaining the existing services and supports that assist with reducing congregate care.
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Page 23: D-3.2 Reducing Congregate Care

Q61 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?	YES
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Page 24: D-3.2 Reducing Congregate Care

Q62 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Imperial County has met it's goal of placing children with relatives, nonrelated extended family members (NREFMs), in the least restrictive placement as possible, and reducing the amount of children placed in congregate care.

During FY 2017-2018 our Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs.

The average length of stay at Imperial County's Emergency Shelter (Betty Jo McNeece Receiving) was reduced from 14 days to 11.3 days.

Caregiver Direct Services and Support provided services and support to caregivers in order to retain homes and maintain placements of children. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with resources, such as needed furnishings, so that the children could stay together.

Q63 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Reducing Congregate Care activities.

Imperial County's Child and Family Services Reviews (CFSR) findings identified lack of Family Findings Efforts (FFE) through out the life of a case as a barrier. Best practice is for the assigned social worker to actively search for relatives throughout the life of the case and not solely when there is a placement disruption or a need for placement. Continued Family Finding efforts allow for the fostering of relationships and supports for children who remain in foster care. Active FFE promote better outcomes to include permanency and stability and more importantly reduce the number of children in congregate care.

Imperial County has benefited from building the capacity of staff by strengthening communication between Executive leadership to emphasize the importance of collaboration and comprehend their role with Continuum of Care Reform and the impact of their responsibilities.

Q64 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Does Not Apply.

Q65 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

Please refer to question 5 (five).

Q66 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Reducing Congregate Care activities, not already described above.

Does Not Apply

Q67 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

145

Q68 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

Imperial County's Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs. By conducting outreach with relatives the RFAS was able to expeditiously place children in familiar home environments, to include the least restrictive environment and maintain their family connections.

Q69 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

50

Q70 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

Caregiver Direct Services and Support provided services and support to caregivers in order to retain homes and maintain placements of children. This activity strengthened partnerships between the care providers and agency through placement readiness and continuing supports to remove barriers to caregivers assisting with exceptional needs, needed furnishings, extra-curricular activities, and respite. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together. The Agency will continue to explore the families' needs as it pertains to supporting the children as these needs are likely to change over time.

Q71 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Reducing Congregate Care goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Imperial County has achieved its goal in reducing congregate care therefore Imperial County will continue with the proposed activities.

Page 26: D-3.4 Reducing Congregate Care

Q72 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q73 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q74 3. Non-FPRRS

0

Page 27: D-3.5 Reducing Congregate Care

Q75 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?	YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.): Imperial County has achieved its goal in reducing congregate care: however, Imperial County will continue with the proposed activities with the exception of the Caregiver Liaison from the Probation Department in a continued effort to have children placed in the least restrictive environment. Although Imperial County does not have the ability to fund a new position for a Probation Caregiver Liaison, the current RFAS will work in collaboration with the Probation Department to assist prospective caregivers in an effort to reduce congregate care.
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Q76 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Reducing Congregate Care for FY 2018-19?	NO
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Page 28: D-4.1 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q77 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.
Imperial County's goal to stabilize placement and remove barriers included supporting the retention of caregivers by working collaboratively with intake and assessment teams to address the needs of children utilizing a holistic approach and appropriate case planning. Further goals included reducing the time to approval and increasing placements with relative caregivers. Expanding current placement resources for targeted populations with quality care providers. Development of a caregiver liaison, foster parent liaison and ambassador.

Page 29: D-4.2 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q78 1. Which specific services and supports did Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities provide? Select ALL that apply.	Caregiver Support, Caregiver Training, Family Finding Support & Staff, Initial Placement Support, Mental Health Services Coordination, Staff Training
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Q79 2. Please describe in detail how Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities were implemented.

During FY 2017-2018 our Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs.

In addition, the RFAS conducted Family Finding Efforts (FFE) and provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Having a dedicated RFAS assisted in reducing the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants.

In addition, by placing children with relatives and NREFMS, the family is provided with additional safety networks and support with reunification and long term placement if needed. Furthermore, the development of safety networks is critical to establishing natural supports and strengthening the family. These family connections further support successful Family Reunification efforts and placement stability. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together.

Caregiver Direct Services and Support provided services and support to caregivers in order to retain homes and maintain placements of children. This activity strengthened partnerships between the care providers and agency through placement readiness and continuing supports to remove barriers to caregivers assisting with exceptional needs, needed furnishings, extra-curricular activities, and respite. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together. The Agency will continue to explore the families' needs as it pertains to supporting the children as these needs are likely to change over time.

Activities included providing individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. In addition, the RFA unit provide specialized training for caregivers. The training is provided in English and Spanish languages, these trainings are tailored to the specific needs of the caregivers. This reduced the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants.

<p>Q80 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.</p>	<p>YES (please describe):</p> <p>Imperial County plans to continue to sustain the RFAS and with FFE. In addition, Imperial County County's current System Improvement Plan (SIP) includes a strategy that focuses on improved Family Findings Efforts by Child Welfare staff throughout the life of a case. This includes developing policy and procedures on Family Finding, training staff on the policy, and tracking Family Finding efforts through reports and compare with Permanency and Placement Stability outcomes to measure success on an ongoing basis.</p>
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<p>Q81 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?</p>	<p>YES</p>
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Q82 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

Imperial County was able to provide support to and increase the engagement of prospective emergency placement. The RFSA assisted prospective caregivers in navigating the emergency placement process and comprehending the expectations of Children and Family Services.

Q83 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities.

Having dedicated staff (RFAS) working collaboratively with intake and assessment staff expedites the emergency placement process for relatives and nonrelated extended family members (NREFMs). Prospective caregivers have direct contact with the RFAS, which assists in alleviating any uncertainty feelings caregivers might encounter during this process. In addition, the RFAS expedites ancillary services needed to meet requirements for emergency placement.

Q84 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Imperial County was unable to fully meet it's Stabilizing Placement/Removing Barriers goals due to not being able fully implement the following activities: Home-Base Care Placement Unit, Resource Family Caregiver Program, Recruitment and Retention Program, Resource Family Liaison (Probation), and Caregiver Direct Service and Support.

Q85 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

There was a high demand to operate the RFA program to meet the demands of recruiting, education, and supporting existing resources families and prospective applicable. This impacted other activities associated with this goal. Current staffing levels and responsibilities prevented Imperial County from reallocating staff to these activities.

Q86 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers activities, not already described above.

Refer to question five (5).

Page 32: D-4.3 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q87 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

145

Q88 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

Imperial County's Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs. The RFAS worked with prospective caregivers and provided ancillary services to expedite the emergency placement process. These children were placed in a familiar home environment and enhanced the family's support system, which promotes placement stability.

Q89 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

50

Q90 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

The RFAS provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Prospective caregivers had direct contact with the RFAS, which assisted in alleviating any uncertainty feelings caregivers might have encountered during this process. The enhanced communication motivated caregivers to continue to work with the Department on a long term basis and remained committed as a resources family. In addition, the RFAS expedited ancillary services needed to meet requirements for emergency placement.

Q91 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Imperial County expects to monitor and improve the RFAS duties and responsibilities to expand positive outcomes. Imperial County will continue working on developing policies and procedures in an effort to provide consistency for all children in foster care.

Page 33: D-4.4 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q92 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q93 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q94 3. Non-FPRRS

0

Page 34: D-4.5 Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers

Q95 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?	YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.): Imperial County plans to continue to provide support and services to caregivers in an effort to retain homes and maintain placement for children. Although, Imperial County might not have the ability to address all the unmet goals, there are some areas where improvement can be made. This could be achieved by developing policies and procedures, continuously train staff, tracking outcomes through reports and compare with Permanency and Placement Stability outcomes to measure success on an ongoing basis.
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Q96 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Stabilizing Placements/Removing Barriers for FY 2018-19?	NO
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Page 35: D-5.1 Supporting Caregivers

Q97 1. Please briefly recap {{ Q1 }} County's FY 2017-18 goals for Supporting Caregivers, as outlined in your FY 2017-18 FPRRS plan. Please note if the goals evolved over the course of the year, and any significant insights gained while pursuing these goals. If {{ Q1 }} County did not have a specific goal for Supporting Caregivers in FY 2017-18, please briefly explain why a specific goal was not needed.

Imperial County's goal is to support caregivers via access to medical support with an assigned Public Health Nurse, Initial Placement stipends, Respite care and Extra Curricular activity supports.

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Q98 1. Which specific services and supports did Supporting Caregivers activities provide? Select ALL that apply.	Caregiver Support, Caregiver , Training Family Finding Support & , Staff Initial Placement Support, Mental Health Services , Coordination Placement Support Staff, Staff Training
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Q99 2. Please describe in detail how Supporting Caregivers activities were implemented.

During FY 2017-2018 Imperial County's Resource Family Approval Specialist provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Having a dedicated RFAS assisted in reducing the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants.

In addition, by placing children with relatives and NREFMS, the family is provided with additional safety networks and support with reunification and long term placement if needed. Furthermore, the development of safety networks is critical to establishing natural supports and strengthening the family. These family connections further support successful Family Reunification efforts and placement stability. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together.

Caregiver Direct Services and Support provided services and support to caregivers in order to retain homes and maintain placements of children. This activity strengthened partnerships between the care providers and agency through placement readiness and continuing supports to remove barriers to caregivers assisting with exceptional needs, needed furnishings, extra-curricular activities, and respite. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together. The Agency will continue to explore the families' needs as it pertains to supporting the children as these needs are likely to change over time.

Activities included providing individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. In addition, the RFA unit provide specialized training for caregivers. The training is provided in English and Spanish languages, these trainings are tailored to the specific needs of the caregivers. This reduced the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants.

Furthermore, social workers assisted children and caregivers with the coordination of Mental Health Services, which included referrals, transportation, follow up and support.

Q100 3. Does {{ Q1 }} County have an ongoing sustainability plan for these activities? A sustainability plan can include efforts by {{ Q1 }} County or by other parties.	YES (please describe): Imperial County will continue to provide support to caregivers through the Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS). The RFA unit will continue to provide training and support to caregivers in order to meet their identified needs. In addition, the Department will continue collaborate with other outside agencies as a team approach to provide families with services and mitigate barriers.
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Q101 3a. Does {{ Q1 }} County intend to fund these activities after FPRRS funding has ceased?	YES
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Q102 4. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County met its goals.

During FY 2017-2018 Imperial County's Resource Family Approval Specialist provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Having a dedicated RFAS assisted in reducing the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants.

In addition, by placing children with relatives and NREFMS, the family is provided with additional safety networks and support with reunification and long term placement if needed. Furthermore, the development of safety networks is critical to establishing natural supports and strengthening the family. These family connections further support successful Family Reunification efforts and placement stability. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together.

Caregiver Direct Services and Support provided services and support to caregivers in order to retain homes and maintain placements of children. This activity strengthened partnerships between the care providers and agency through placement readiness and continuing supports to remove barriers to caregivers assisting with exceptional needs, needed furnishings, extra-curricular activities, and respite. This funding allowed for children to be placed together in a least restrictive environment by providing a caregiver with needed furnishings so that the children could stay together. The Agency will continue to explore the families' needs as it pertains to supporting the children as these needs are likely to change over time.

Activities included providing individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. In addition, the RFA unit provide specialized training for caregivers. The training is provided in English and Spanish languages, these trainings are tailored to the specific needs of the caregivers. This reduced the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants.

Q103 5. Please describe any advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Supporting Caregivers activities.

Caregiver Direct Services and Support provided services and support to caregivers in order to retain homes and maintain placements of children. The RFAS provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting the applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Having a dedicated RFAS assisted in reducing the time to emergency placement approval and enhanced communication with prospective applicants, which motivated caregivers to continue to work with the Department on a long term basis and remained committed as a resource family.

Q104 6. Please briefly summarize how {{ Q1 }} County did not meet its goals.

Imperial County was not able to fully meet it's Supporting Caregivers goal due to not being able to fully implement the activity of Caregiver Direct Service and Support, which encompasses the following services: Public Health Nurse, Initial Placement Stipends, Respite Care, and Extra-Curricular Activities.

Q105 7. For any unmet goals, tell us the barriers and/or challenges which prevented the goal from being met. Are there any lessons learned from the attempt to meet the goal which may be disseminated to other counties facing similar circumstances?

Although Imperial County was not able to fully implement this activity, the majority of the attainable goals were met with the exception of the Public Health Nurse and Respite Care. This activity consisted of several complex services to caregivers that were not attainable due to the demands of each component. Current staffing levels and responsibilities prevented Imperial County from reallocating staff to these activities.

Q106 8. Please describe any noteworthy barriers to implementation, advice or best practices for other counties that may wish to implement similar Supporting Caregivers activities, not already described above.

Please refer to question 5 (five).

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Q107 1. If these activities affected children in care, please enter the number of children affected.

145

Q108 2. Please briefly state how they were affected.

Imperial County's Resource Family Approval Specialist (RFAS) placed 145 children on an emergency basis with relatives or NREFMs. The RFAS worked with prospective caregivers and provided ancillary services to expedite the emergency placement process. These children were placed in a familiar home environment and enhanced the family's support system. In addition, as needed, children were supported with monetary assistance for extra-curricular activities.

Q109 3. If these activities affected caregivers, please enter the number of caregivers affected.

50

Q110 4. Please briefly state how they were affected.

The RFAS provided individualized support for caregivers by eliminating barriers and streamlining the emergency placement process by actively assisting applicants with the completion of the RFA process. Prospective caregivers had direct contact with the RFAS, which assisted in alleviating any uncertainty feelings caregivers might have encountered during this process. The enhanced communication motivated caregivers to continue to work with the Department on a long term basis and remained committed as a resources family.

Moreover, caregivers who were unable to endure the initial cost of placement were provided with stipends to assist with expenditures for licensing compliance and approval.

Q111 5. Given the outcomes achieved, please describe what (if anything) {{ Q1 }} County would do differently to address its Supporting Caregivers goals, or what you intend to change going forward.

Imperial County plans to monitor and improve activities that provide support for caregivers. Imperial County will continue to provide support and services to caregivers in an effort to retain homes and maintain placement for children. Although, Imperial County might not have the ability to address all the unmet goals, there are some areas where improvement can be made. This could be achieved by developing policies and procedures, continuously train staff, tracking outcomes through reports and compare with Permanency and Placement Stability outcomes to measure success on an ongoing basis.

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Q112 1. FPRRS - State General Fund

0

Q113 2. FPRRS - Federal IV-E

0

Q114 3. Non-FPRRS

0

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Q115 1. Will {{ Q1 }} County continue to address the unmet goals?	<p>YES (Please provide additional information and/or any proposed new activities involved.):</p> <p>Imperial County plans to continue to provide support and services to caregivers in an effort to retain homes and maintain placement for children. Although, Imperial County might not have the ability to address all the unmet goals, there are some areas where improvement can be made. This could be achieved by developing policies and procedures, continuously train staff, tracking outcomes through reports and compare with Permanency and Placement Stability outcomes to measure success on an ongoing basis.</p>
Q116 2. Does {{ Q1 }} County have any new goals related to Supporting Caregivers for FY 2018-19?	NO

Page 42: E. Comments

Q117 Please use the box below for any comments, questions, or concerns about the survey or the use of Survey Monkey.	
Imperial County tracked the FPRRS expenditure for the entire fiscal year, the total amount utilized was \$22,405. The funds were not monitored to each specific activity.	
The survey is not user friendly and does not allow to review previous responses in an efficient manner.	